

**THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR**



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JANUARY 2022

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED IN JANUARY AND SEPTEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR. IT IS FOR THE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE LONG RANGE PATROL UNITS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THESE UNITS ARE: LRRP DET., 191ST MI; HHC (G-2) LRRP; CO. E (LRP), 52ND INF.; CO. H, (RANGER) 75TH INF.; AND DET. 10, (RANGER) HHC, 3RD BGE.

THE NEWSLETTER IS MAILED TO ALL OF THESE MEN FOR WHICH AN ADDRESS IS AVAILABLE. FUNDING FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS BY THE LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

ANYONE WISHING TO INCLUDE AN ARTICLE IN THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL TO:

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713 DIAMOND STREET
FAIRMONT, WV 26554-3713
lrrp_rangers@comcast.net



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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

from Bob **Raab**

One more reunion in the books. Although our numbers were way down (I expected that), even for a Killeen reunion, it was one of the more enjoyable reunions I have attended because I had time to spend one on one with every LRRP/Ranger in attendance.

We are expecting a huge year in 2022 in Dayton Ohio. It could easily exceed our record in Louisville in 2006. The Wright Patterson A. F. Base is close by, along with a huge modern Air Force Museum that consists of several buildings and takes a little more than a day to see everything, or so I've been told by some of my fellow American Legion and VFW members from the posts in my hometown of Mason. It should be an exciting and fun time for everyone and family members of all ages. So again, I am begging everyone to try to make the 2022 reunion because of all the fun things to do and see.

Plus, we have never been to Dayton. It's an easy drive for guys in the Midwest and an easy access airport for those who desire to fly. Like I said, a big reunion. The dates are July 6 – 10 at the Crowne Plaza Dayton and the Dayton Convention Center. The reservation phone number is (937) 224-0800. The 1st Cav Division number is (254) 547-6537. That takes care of 2022.

Now here is the kicker and YES this is correct. The reunions in 2023 and 2024 are both in Louisville KY. I can't remember which year we were scheduled to be in Louisville, 2023 or 2024, but last year when the reunion was cancelled there was a non-cancellation clause in the contract, with the people in Louisville, so in order to prevent a nasty lawsuit and bad publicity, an agreement was reached to have reunions there back-to-back.

With the death of our beloved Doc **Gilchrist**, we have some changes on our board. A big thank you goes out to Bill **Carpenter**, when a few years back no one stepped up to fill the vice president's slot. Bill said he would slide in to fill the vacancy, but would never be president while he was the newsletter editor. He thought (and I agree) that the president should not be the newsletter editor. We are very, very fortunate to have a man of integrity, love of our organization as our new Vice President, Doug **Matze**, who has only missed one reunion.

Our new sergeant-of-arms is that gentle giant from (where else) Texas, Pat **Lyons**. I figured I'm getting a 2 for 1 with lovely Anita always so willing to help out when called upon. Anita has already used her talents with thoughtful and kind words with the passing of Bill **Carpenter**'s daughter, Stacy and Doc **Gilchrist**. Again, thank you Anita.

The last officer change is a trustee. A big thank you goes out to Mike **Gooding** for his years of service to our organization. Taking the trustee position is our own "welcome back Kotter" . . . Howard **Shute**. A big THANK YOU to our new board members.

I have some good news and some not so good news. First the good. With all of you guys getting older and longer in the tooth (I still have a baby face), Bob **Gill** felt that the cost for a lifetime membership was too steep for the average guy to get his money's worth. So, the lifetime membership cost was dropped to \$150. With that being voted on, two new life memberships were purchased by frugal Bob **Gill** and cheap Bob **Raab** and three more have been purchased since the reunion.

No the not so good news. The prices are going up slightly for our unit merchandise, as is the shipping, which is going from \$15 to \$20. If you don't include the shipping, you won't receive your order.

In closing, it is my fervent wish that each and every one has had a joyous Christmas season and hasn't lost sight of the real reason for Christmas. May 2022 bring joy and peace and may our troubled country bind up the wounds that separate us!

Until next time, may God bless and keep you and yours safe and well.

Bob Raab, Sr.

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**LRRP Rangers Chapter
Treasurer's Report,
Period 6/30/2021 - 11/15/2021
Prepared for LRRP/Rangers
Association of the Vietnam War**

Starting Balance \$13,469.93

(From Treasurer's 2021
Newsletter No. 83 Report
thru 6/30/2021)

Credits (+)

Merchandise purchased by members	\$1,610.00
Dues paid	\$ 90.00
Shipping paid	\$ 78.00
Donations	\$ 621.00
Lifetime Membership Dues	\$ 750.00
Proceeds from Reunion Raffle	\$ 760.00
Total Credits	\$ 3,909.00

Debits (-)

Print, finish and mail	
September 2020 Newsletter No. 81	\$ (758.12)
Purchase of merchandise from vendor	\$(5,818.12)
Payment for Reunion expenses	\$ (340.82)
1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship	\$ (500.00)
Total Debits	\$ (7,417.06)

Closing Balance \$9,961.87

Bill Hornbuckle
Treasurer

**LRRP/Rangers
of the Vietnam War Association
2021 Reunion in Killeen, TX
100th Anniversary
of the 1st Cav Division**

Income and Expenses from the Reunion

Income +

Raffle Ticket Sales	\$760.00
Merchandise Sales	\$1,143.00
Donations	\$370.00
Annual Dues	\$60.00
Lifetime Dues (150X3)	\$450.00

Total income \$2,783.00

Expenses -

Purchase Raffle Prizes	\$162.33
Hospitality Rm. Drnks/snacks	\$173.49
Print 25 Bus Mtg Agendas	\$5.00
Shilo Hospitality Rm. Rental??	\$0.00

Total expenses \$340.82

**2021 REUNION
LRRP/RANGERS ATTENDEES**

Larry Curtis	Duke DuShane
James Faulkner	Stan Freeborn
Bennnie Gentry	Bob Gill
Bill Hornbuckle	John Hutter
John LeBrun	Craig Leerberg
Patrick Lyons	Oscar Martinez
Doug Matze	Charlie Ochoa
Wayne Okken	Terry Parks
Bob Raab	Dan Roberts
Howard Shute	

Nineteen is the lowest number since Ft. Hood in 2003 with 19 also at it. The lowest attendance number was 17 in Buffalo, NY in 1998. I have heard a few "I won't go back there" stories about Buffalo.

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OBITUARIES

John H Ogle, 78, of Hampton Township, Allison Park, PA was called to Heaven on Sunday, January 3, 2021. John joined the U.S. Army as a career on January 21, 1959 and retired from Fort Benning, GA with many service awards on January 30, 1979. His duty with the U.S. Special Forces took him to Vietnam 3 times as an Airborne Army Ranger. After retirement from the US Army John settled in Columbus, GA until he relocated to Pittsburgh, PA. Anyone that knew John would agree that he was a very generous, noble and honorable man with a personality that was unforgettable. Renee and Heather would like to extend their deepest gratitude to all the Doctors, Nurses and staff that cared and comforted John while under care at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hillman Cancer Center, UPMC Shadyside - 7 Main Oncology Dept. and to Maria of UPMC Family Hospice. John fought a hard battle trying to overcome AML which was due to exposure to Agent Orange. No information on John's service in the Lurps was found.

Dale Lee Markovich, 74, of Cortland, Ohio passed away Sunday, September 19, 2021, at St. Elizabeth Hospital. He was born April 14, 1947 in Warren, Ohio, a son of the late John and Jane (Ziegler) Markovich.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Debra (Schell) Markovich, with whom he shared 46 years of marriage until her passing in 2017 and brother, Mark Markovich. On February 14, 2019, Dale married the former Mary Broz Kachurik.

He was a graduate of Howland High School, class of 1965 and served in the United States Army with one decorated tour in Vietnam. He earned the Bronze Star with V, Air Metal, and other medals. After serving in the Vietnam War, he continued his education at Kent State Trumbull Campus.

Memories of Dale will be carried on by his wife, Mary Markovich of Cortland, Ohio; one daughter, one son and three grandchildren.

A private memorial service will be held. A celebration of life will take place in the Spring. The family requests that any material contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or Vietnam Memorial Fund, 1235 S. Clark Street, Suite #910, Arlington, VA 22202, in his memory.

Friends and family may send condolences to his family by visiting carlwhall.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Carl W. Hall Funeral Home.

George Cecil Gentry, 72, passed away Friday, September 24, 2021, after battling Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia for over fifteen years. He died peacefully at his home in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Known by most as Cecil, he was born on July 12, 1949, in Albemarle, Virginia. He was a graduate of Albemarle High School, class of 1968. After graduating high school, he joined the Army at the age of 19, serving as a Sergeant during the Vietnam War.

Cecil will be remembered by his children, Angel Henry and Coleman Gentry; his grandchildren, Kyle, William, Mary Elizabeth, Colby, Oliver and Eli; his great-grandchild, Piper; his brothers, Wayne and Glen; and several nieces and nephews.

The family extends special thanks for the excellent care and attention provided by the staff of Open Arms Helping Hands and the Veterans Affairs Administration over the last five years.

Lynn Moore

Last known address Rogers, AK
No other information was found

Bill Abbott

Chanderville, IL
No obituary was found
Bill Served in the LRRP/Rangers in 1969-70

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**74th Annual Reunion
of the 1st Cavalry Division Association
Dayton, OH
6-10 July 2022**

The 1st Cavalry Division Association invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Dayton, OH for the 74th Annual Reunion from **6-10 July 2022**. All Life and Associate Members, Gold Star Families and Widows are all welcome to attend this special event.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$20 Registration Fee except for our Active-Duty Troopers who pay \$10 to register. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. **NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the June 01, 2022, deadline. Cancellations must be received by 5pm Friday June 01 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund.**

Hotel Information

We will be utilizing the Radisson Dayton as the headquarters hotel. The Radisson has guaranteed a room rate of \$109 per night plus tax and there is no charge for parking. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The Radisson Dayton provides a free shuttle service from the Dayton International Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

Radisson Dayton (HQ Hotel) \$109
937-229-9835 and ask for Rhonda
1-866-247-5162

33 E 5th St, Dayton, OH 45402

Guests can call 937-229-9835 and ask for Rhonda, or call 1-866-247-5162 and identify themselves with the "1st Cavalry Division Association" for the group rate.

Below are steps to how guests can book their room online:

- Click the link below:

<https://www.radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-dayton?cid=a:se+b:gmb+c:amer+i:local+e:rad+d:us+h:USADCOH>

Populate the check in and check out date. (Please note the rate will only be available for the date(s) listed on the agreement.)

Click the drop-down arrow where it says, "Special Rates" and scroll down to "Promotional Codes" Type "CDA" and click check availability.

Marriott at the Univ. of Dayton

(937) 223-1000 \$109
1414 S Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409

Additional hotels for our members to consider.

Fairfield Inn and Suites

(937) 331-9330

305 E Monument Ave, Dayton, OH 45402

Holiday Inn Express

(937) 250-6400

2140 S Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton, OH 45417

Reunion Event Overview

This year's Ladies Tea will be held at Carillon Historical Park (lunch included). Carillon Historical Park is a 65-acre open-air history museum, that serves as the main campus for Dayton History. They share the amazing stories of how Dayton changed the world!

The Association has planned for transportation to visit the Air Force Museum adjacent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Members will have all day Friday, 8 July, to peruse the Museum at their own speed and time. Additionally, our Banquet Dinner will be held in the AF Museum on Saturday evening.

All our planned events will be held in the Dayton Convention Center (adjacent to the Radisson Dayton): War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast. The Group Breakfasts and

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Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, 10 July, in the Radisson Dayton. We will have all meetings for the Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors, and our General Membership meeting at the Convention Center. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association's Board.

Seating for all events is open except for Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets **marked with a table number** at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Don't wait until the last minute or we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. We are always questioned about attire for the banquet. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing: a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with open collar, jeans, or shorts. We want you to attend and aren't overly concerned with what you wear, so long as it isn't indecent!

The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the Radisson Dayton (Salon A) for you to gather and enjoy yourselves. Drinks (beer and wine) in the Reunion Room are free but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room. The Reunion Room will open daily at 0900 with the bar opening at 1200 hours.

The Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop (McKinley Room) will set up a store in the hotel to sell all kinds of Cav-tastic First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals, and other items too numerous to mention.

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

LRRP Crossed Sabers Pins	\$4
T-Shirts: Black/White sizes to 4X	\$18
T-Shirts Recondo: Grey sizes to 2X	\$18
T-Shirts Long Sleeve: Grey sizes to 4X	\$18
Golf(Polo)Shirts:Blk/White sizes to XL	\$30
Sweatshirts M to XXL	\$20
Hats: Black or White	\$18
Ranger Ring: size 10 1/2 only	\$50
Belt Buckles: numbered	\$20
Ranger Lapel Pin: On Hold	\$4
Sm Cloth Scroll Patch: (H - 75th)	\$4
LG unit crest patch	\$20
Recondo patch	\$3
Wooden Nickel:	\$1
Koozie can coolers	\$3
Ankony's book; LURP's	\$30
Seymour's book - Camping	\$15
Historical Occurrences book	about \$25
Decals: interior/exterior	\$2
ANNUAL DUES	\$15
LIFETIME DUES	\$150
Shipping per order	\$20

Send orders to:
Bennie Gentry
1347 20th St.
Tell City, IN 47586
812-619-6111
Macv495@yahoo.com

Make check/money order payable to
LRRP/RANGERS

The \$20.00 shipping charge
covers only one or two shirts.

Donations are gladly accepted

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HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES

25 Feb. 1969 Mission, Team-35

TL- John Bedford, ATL- Steve Curtis,
RTO- Mike Blymyer
From Mike **Blymyer**

Team-35 had not had contact with the enemy. It was now my fifth mission and I was anxious to test my meddle. Two days earlier we had inserted in near the Song Be River and so far, had not detected any enemy activity.

We were patrolling parallel to the river and as we came around a bend there were clothes hanging on the bushes next to the river. We pulled up short and moved back from the river to see if we could find the owners of the drying clothes since there didn't seem to be anyone in the river. As I recall we made an arc around the spot and couldn't find any additional sign.

John moved us away from the river and we set up a perimeter next to an open area where we could get extracted and waited to see what, if anything, was going to transpire.

Apparently tired of waiting, John announced that he was going to move over towards the tree line to see what he could find. As he started to move away from the team, I told the ATL that I was going to move up to keep an eye on John and cover his six.

John had gotten about halfway to the trees when he yelled something and opened up with his Car-15 on full auto. I couldn't see anything but put down suppressing fire in the general direction that John was shooting. As John fell back, I joined up with him. After we rejoined the team, he requested extraction.

The birds came on station and worked the wood line as we ran for the slick that was landing to pick us up. The bird was kicking up a lot of dust and visibility was virtually nil. We had nearly reached the slick when, wham, down I went in a really hard face plant.

The guys picked me up bodily and tossed me into the slick. They were pulling off my gear trying to find where I was hit.

The air had gotten knocked out of me and I was having a hard time trying to tell them I had stepped in a hole and, except for my pride, was okay. Yep embarrassing!

9 April 1969 Mission, Team 35

Tim Greenly (TL), Steve Curtis (ATL), Mike
Blymyer (RTO)
From Mike **Blymyer**

Division G-2 had gotten intel about a courier route and requested a team go in to recon and, if possible, intercept. We inserted on Wednesday the 9th of April 1969.

After landing we moved towards what from the air appeared to be a well-used trail. We started our patrol parallel to and about 50 meters upslope from the trail. The undergrowth was fairly sparse and we were spread out about three meters apart.

Tim, our Team Leader, was walking in his normal position as front scout. He stopped suddenly and the rest of the team froze in place. Below us were four enemy with a 107mm rocket launcher, tripod and a B-40 rocket. We were standing just 50 meters away and, basically, in the open.

If one of them had looked up it would have been game on. Fortunately, they were focused on getting on down the trail and not sightseeing. They continued down the trail and we decided to locate a good surveillance/ambush site. Tim found a location he liked. We set out our six claymores (daisy-chained with det. cord) along the trail and waited.

The next day around 1130 hr, three enemy troops went past us. Then about 1400 hr we had four more go down trail from the other direction. This group had what appeared to be a courier with guards. We blew the claymores. Tim said he remembered seeing a tree on the other side of the trail shoot up like a rocket. We followed the blast with grazing fire then moved out onto the trail.

Both Tim and I were momentarily confused when we saw what appeared to be a bloody chicken waving around through the cloud of dirt. It turned out to be the courier. Those claymores

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did not do nice things to the human body. She had both legs blown off, her right arm opened to the bone and an open wound in her chest.

We found her rucksack and it was filled with South Vietnamese currency and documents. It was determined later that she had been carrying the plotting board for Phouc Vinh. Her escorts had been destroyed in the blast, one further down the trail and one blown over the other side of the trail.

We checked all the bodies for more documents but didn't locate any. With all the enemy small unit activity going on and our location compromised we didn't waste any time hanging around to see what was going to happen. We grabbed the AK-47 that one of the "guards" had been carrying, grabbed the rucksack with the documents and currency, and called for extraction.

We moved as quickly as the situation allowed to our extraction point and were quickly picked up by our ride home.

After we were in the air and heading back to base the pilot told Tim that as they were flying in to extract us, they had observed a company-sized force quickly moving toward our position. We, apparently, got out just in time.

3 Aug 1969 Mission, Team 36

Tim Greenly TL, Mike Blymyer ATL
From Mike Blymyer

I can no longer remember what our mission was or who else was on the team. I remember quite clearly, however, going into the LZ. As we started our insertion Tim was standing on the right skid and I was standing on the left skid of our Huey. We were at tree top level and going in when the 'copter pilot clipped the top branches of a tree with the tail boom. Suddenly I was looking down at the ground coming straight up to meet me. I, apparently, levitated into the bird because I found myself on my back on the floor of the Slick as the bird righted itself and hit on the skids; a bit hard.

The team bailed out and set up a defensive parameter around the bird as we checked ourselves

for injuries (we were fine) and the copter pilot did a quick check on his bird. He must have thought everything looked okay because he revved it up, was able to get airborne and, although the Huey was wobbling, he was able to clear the trees. We waited a bit, completed our com. checks, moved away from the clearing, and started our patrol happy as can be to be off that helicopter and still in one piece.

The next day Tim, who was acting as our front scout, observed a couple of VC and we opened up on them. We pulled into a defensive position and requested a gunship and an extraction. It didn't take long for our extraction Huey to come in with a Pink Team providing support.

The Slick landed and we all got on board without incident and the helicopter took off. The Huey attempted to get enough altitude to clear the tree line but something wasn't working right and he was able to get high enough.

The pilot landed the bird, told us his load was too heavy and someone needed to get off- NOW! I had the emergency radio (URC-10) and was on the floor next to the door so off I went. I dove into a small depression close to the helicopter. Tim was right behind me. The Slick took off again and this time was able to clear the tree tops.

So there Tim and I sat as the LOH portion of the Pink Team provided suppressing gunfire with hot brass raining down on us.

About this time, I wondered if another Slick would be able to get to us before the LOH ran out of ammo. My question was soon answered as the LOH landed and waved us over. Tim and I squeezed in and off the LOH went- weaving between trees heading towards the river.

Now THAT ride had a really high pucker factor. Especially given the fact that over the past two days our luck with helicopters hadn't been the best. Somehow, though, the pilot dodged all the trees, made it to the river, and gained altitude. We got a lift back to the nearest fire base without any additional drama and again were really, really happy to be in one piece.

5900

YOUR BOOK YOUR HISTORY

HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES OF THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

**AN ANTHOLOGY OF FIRST-PERSON
STORIES ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR
WRITTEN BY AND FOR
THE MEN WHO LIVED IT**

These are some of the stories from the men who served in the 1st Cavalry Division's LRRP/Ranger unit during the Vietnam War.

These men are not professional writers. What they wrote was not reviewed by a professional.

These stories are the 30-40-50 year old memories of what we did when we were 19-20 year old "Lurps" and chopper pilots. These stories are true events as they remember them.

**THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE
LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE
THE 1ST CAV ASSN.
SOUVINIER SHOP,
FROM THE PUBLISHER,
AUTHOR HOUSE
AND SEVERAL ONLINE WEB PAGES.**

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE
OF THIS BOOK GO TO OUR
LRRP/RANGERS CHAPTER**

NONFICTION BOOKS by and about LRRP/Rangers in Viet Nam

Historical Occurrences of the LRRP/Rangers

An anthology written by, for and about the 1st Cavalry Division's LRRP/Rangers published by AuthorHouse

The Ghosts of the Highlands by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. This is about the beginning of the 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1966-67

LRRP Company Command
by Gregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ballantine Books.
The 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1968-69

Acceptable Loss by Gregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. Gregg's autobiography, 1969-70.

MIA RESCUE LRRPs in Cambodia by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. One mission gone bad during the Cambodian Invasion.

Above All Else by Ron Christopher, PublishAmerica. Ron's autobiography about being the TL of the first team to pull a mission as the 1st Cav's LRRP/Rangers.

One-Zulu by Curtis "Randy" Kimes, published by author. About one mission, May 7-9, 1968.

Lurps: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Quang Tri by Bob Ankony
University Press of America, of Rowman and Littlefield Publishing group, 1967-68

In The Jungle ---Camping with the Enemy
By Jim "Spanky" Seymour, Outskirts Press
Memories of Spanky's LRRP missions, 1967-69.

S901

YOUR STORIES TO 1ST CAV WEBPAGE

From John **LeBrun**
November 2021

Greetings from the Pacific North West. Hoping everyone is doing well based on the trying times that we are going through; hope by the time you are reading this we are back to something we can recognize as normal.

Went to the reunion in September and was pleasantly surprised how well everything went. Must give a shout out to the caterers as the food this time around was alright; even the indoor Texas BBQ.

As some of you know I had the memories published and I purchased 175 copies of the book for distribution. Sold 12 copies in Canada, 2 copies in Europe and all the rest sold in the US of A except for 14 hard cover books. Right now, I do not plan on making another large purchase of the book unless there is a demand by a lot of members or their families. If you would like to purchase a copy or copies of the remaining ones, I have, send me a check for \$25.00 per copy to 6989 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine WA 98230. You can email me your address and I can put the book in the mail for you but please do not email me the information in a chain email as for some reason I can't recover the information after opening the email. My lack of skill with the computer, I think.

If for whatever reason you would like a copy and can't afford the cost no problem just send me your info and I will get a book to you.

Was surprised at the number of relatives and friends of members that requested copies of the book. The firsthand accounts hit home for a number of our members relatives that really had no idea about our mission and what we did.

On another note, I have received permission from the 1st Cav Association to start a Ranger web site for our articles and pictures. I have been working with Karleen, she has been working, I have been watching, to take everything that we currently have and get it on the Cav site.

One day our organization will not exist, sometime around the year 2050, and I thought we needed a site that will live on well past our time. The link to the site is
<https://1cda.org/history/infantry-links/>

I would appreciate it if you could give a big thank you to Karleen when you see her; I was amazed at the amount of work that she has done on the project. Any complaints direct them at me, Thanks.

I am trying to contact the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech University as it is my understanding that they have copies of all our newsletters. If anyone knows who the contact is please email or call me as I would like to add digital copies of our newsletters to our web site.

Well enough of this for the newsletter. Hope everyone has/had a great Christmas and New Year's.

Looks like the reunion next year should be well attended as it's in a good central location. That said, really looking forward to the one after that in Kentucky. The last time we were there was outstanding. Until then take care stay safe and hope to see you at the next reunion.

John

MINI-REUNION

Three old friends together at the Veteran's ceremony in Praha, TX to honor all veterans - especially the 9 young men who were killed in WW II - all from Praha Texas.

Pat Blewett, Pat Lyons and Charlie Ochoa
together again as Brothers.



5902

HONOR FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR PATRICK LYONS

From Anita Lyons

Patrick Lyons, Vietnam 1967-1968, was recently chosen for an Honor Flight to Washington, D. C. It is billed as the trip of a lifetime and that is an understatement.

Honor Flight Austin was established in 2012 and the organization has flown over 2400 Veterans to D. C. There are currently 130 Honor Flight groups in the U. S.

Patrick traveled with 2 WWII Vets, 3 Korea Vets, and 34 Vietnam Vets plus 2 service dogs. Each group of 2-3 was assigned a guardian, and medical personnel traveled with the group as well.

The veterans represented the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. And everyone got to see the memorial for his branch, where they all had their pictures taken as a group.

The Army vets met in front of the Lincoln Memorial for their picture since Abraham Lincoln was in the Army!!

Pat **Blewett**, LRRPS 1967-1968, asked Patrick to get a rubbing at the Vietnam Wall of his friend who was killed in Vietnam. Patrick used the red, white and blue Honor Flight form to make the rubbing. It was beautiful even before the rubbing! But with Blewett's friend's name on it, it became something very special.

Another surprise for Patrick at the Wall was the arrival of Kenny **White**. He made the extra effort to meet Patrick and the guardian included him as they continued with the tour. It was amazing that Kenny even found Patrick. Must be that LRRP training!

Patrick's guardian was from D.C. and she knew facts that only a native would know. They saw the memorial honoring the nurses who served in Vietnam. Patrick shared with his guide that he was glad that nurses have a memorial since so many of them cared for him after he was shot and was sent to various places on his trip home.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The group

was told that the Sentinel marches 21 steps one way and as he turns to go back 21 steps, he clicks the taps on his boot as a salute to all veterans in attendance. The Sentinel does not salute, as no one knows the rank of the unknown soldier and therefore, he cannot break protocol. There is an unknown soldier there for every war except Vietnam. This is because with the latest technologies, the veteran who was buried there was identified and returned to his family.

Patrick was chosen to lay a wreath on the tomb. As they saluted, the Sentinel, who does not look at anyone or speak at all, turned and shook Patrick's hand. His guardian said the laying of the wreath and the handshake are only reserved for Presidents or other dignitaries. What an honor for Patrick!

The return trip home was delayed by 6 hours when a jet landing at Reagan slid off the runway and spilled fuel. While the runway was being cleaned, the leaders of the group decided to have mail call in the airport instead of on the plane. Patrick received a big, manilla envelope full of letters - from family and friends, from students from the local high school, and from an entire class of kids in the 5th grade in Houston.

The teacher of that class is a friend of Patrick's sons and he had his class write to "Mr. Lyons". All of the letters were very heartfelt and touching. Many of them spoke about how the Vietnam war had impacted the lives of their uncles, brothers, fathers or grandfathers. And ALL of them thanked Patrick for his sacrifice and service.

But one letter that stood out from all the others came from a co-worker of Patrick's son. The man, Arash, wrote that he was born in Kabul and came to America when he was 9. He said that "it is because of our veteran's service, that my children will be raised in a free country and will have the opportunity to live out their dreams." He said he was "honored to write this letter to express my gratitude towards your service. I want to thank you for keeping our country safe, and (for) fighting for liberty and democracy."

Patrick said when they walked through the Austin airport on the way to D.C., as people saw them, the crowds cheered and applauded. He said

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there were thousands of people and they clapped all the way through the airport. The people in the D.C. airport did the same thing as they deplaned. It was quite a send-off and welcome.

But because of the 6 hour delay on the trip home, the veterans were exhausted and had no idea anyone would be at the Austin airport at 1:00 in the early morning. But love and respect always trump exhaustion. The families of all the veterans were there with balloons and signs and banners and flowers.

And the small number of workers and people who were waiting at the airport cheered "Welcome Home" and applauded as the weary travelers made their way to where family and friends waited. What a surprise they had.

Patrick even had a video from the local High School football team and the High school Band thanking him for his service and welcoming him home.

Even though it was 1:15 AM, there was a brief ceremony, where the Honor Flight people gave each veteran a challenge coin that says "Welcome Home Vietnam War Veteran" and a hard bound book, Vietnam War, 50th Commemoration A Time to Honor.

It really was a trip of a lifetime. A trip to honor and to heal. A trip to show love and respect that was never given 50 years ago. A trip to welcome home soldiers who served a country who failed them as they returned, wounded and broken and confused.

Every one of you deserves this same trip. Go to HonorFlight.Org and apply. Or look on Facebook.

I thank you for your service.

I thank you for your sacrifice and bravery.

I appreciate each one of you.

I am grateful for what you did for all of us.

WELCOME HOME!

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Lyons,
proud wife of Patrick Lyons

EXTENSION OF GULF WAR PRESUMPTIVES

From John **Simones**

The Department of Veteran Affairs has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026.

Prior to the extension, Persian Gulf War Veterans had to file a claim for disability compensation before the end of the 2021 calendar year. VA is extending the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities of 10% or more to ensure benefits established by Congress are fairly administered.

With scientific uncertainty remaining as to the cause and time of onset of illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf War Veterans and current research studies are inconclusive, limiting entitlement to benefits due to the expiration of the presumptive period would be premature. If an extension of the current presumptive period was not implemented, Service members whose conditions arise after December 31, 2021, would be substantially disadvantaged compared to Service members whose conditions manifested at an earlier date.

VA presumes certain medically unexplained illnesses are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These include: chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders, and undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

A wide variety of symptoms can qualify a Gulf War Veteran for presumptive service-connection, Veterans who are experiencing unexplained medical issues are encouraged to file a claim.

**If you know a Veteran who is in crisis,
call the Veterans Crisis Line
at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1**

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PULLING SLACK

From Bill Carpenter

Well, this edition has turned into the Patrick (Anita) Lyons recognition edition.

Pete Dencker is now 1st Vice President of the 75th RRA. He is also our chapter's rep to the 75th.

From what I can find, not one of us got a Distinguished Service Cross much less the Medal of honor. It is my understanding that the DSC requires approval from Division. My guess is that no general wanted to give one to a Lurp for "just doing his job".

I have not seen or heard any story about any of us engaging in hand-to-hand combat. Chasing down and capturing a prisoner, yes, but no hand-to-hand. Up close and personal, yes, but not hand-to-hand. Is there a story out there?

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The Tomb was created in 1921 when an unknown WW 1 soldier was placed there. In 1937, a 24-hour guard was placed there to stop vandalism. The changing of the guard ceremony that we know was begun in 1958.

I did not know that the first female to be a Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was in 1994. The Guards are part of the 3rd Infantry Regiment. Before 1994, women could not serve in combat units. How many women have served in it since then? One thing that cuts the number down is that a tomb guard has to be over 5' 10".

On October 1, 2021 the guard change was all three women. A first.

101 SOLDIERLY THOUGHTS

72. The one night you don't dig in, will bring mortars on your position.

73. Taking the easy way will always get you killed.

74. Blank ammunition has no place in Infantry training.

WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE USED FOR?

From Anita Lyons



Calling all LRRPS.

This little item was in the welcome bag at the 2021 reunion at Ft. Hood.

Allegedly it is a pill holder. But I thought it would be fun to come up with the "real" use for it.

Think about it and when we all get to Dayton, we will collect your ideas.

If you are not coming to the reunion, mail/email in your idea.

The most creative idea will win a prize.

The challenge is on. See ya in Dayton.

Anita Lyons,

Patrick's wife

VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB

I tend to forget that two generations of soldiers have followed us. A Gulf War veteran pointed me to this group. I do not know anything about them other than what is on their webpage. But it does look interesting. They are based in Pittsburgh, PA.

The mission of the Veterans Breakfast Club is to create communities of listening around veterans and their stories to ensure that this living history will never be forgotten. We believe that through our work, people will be connected, educated, healed, and inspired.

We pair VBC volunteers with military veterans for one-on-one oral history interviews over Zoom. If you are a veteran, or you know a veteran, who would be interested in sharing his or her story with us, let us know.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

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Chaplain's Box;
January-February 2022
From Jim Regan

Happy New Year, belated Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays/Holy Days. The year 2021 will be HISTORY by the time you read this.

It's been a rough and tumble time for lots of folks. Reaching out and helping people is the norm for the day. I ask you to; pick up the phone, visit the sick, check on your Buddies. Continue to pray for our country and our Leaders.

Be in there for the long haul, ready to serve now, as you did while in uniform.

Remember, "Prayers work."

Best wishes in this New Year of 2022.

God bless you and God bless America!

Love and prayers, Jim RLTW/L&P

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THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



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